

Application No.: 09/828,225

Docket No.: 20386-00295-US

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7-14 and 17-26 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6 and 15-16 are canceled. Claims 20-22 and 24 are amended.

Claim Amendments

Claim 24 has been amended to more precisely claim the invention. Support for the subject matter added to claim 24 is found, for example, in the original specification on page 7, lines 12-14 and page 4, line 4. Claims 20-22 have been amended to include language consistent with the amendments to claim 24. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 5, 7, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyppanen (WO 97/46829).

Claim 24, as amended, recites a system including a fluidized bed reactor comprising, among other things, at least one inlet chamber located inside the furnace adjacent to at least one wall of the furnace walls for directing the solid material to the process chamber inlet, wherein the at least one inlet chamber extends in a vertical direction and ends in an open inlet which is open in the horizontal direction and located at the top of the inlet chamber inside the furnace, wherein the open inlet allows particles of the solid material to freely enter the inlet chamber.

Hyppanen does not teach or even suggest a system including an inlet chamber located inside the furnace adjacent to at least one wall of the furnace walls for directing the solid material to a process chamber inlet, wherein the inlet chamber extends in a vertical direction and ends in an open inlet which is open in the horizontal direction and located at the top of the inlet chamber inside the furnace, wherein the open inlet allows particles of the solid material to freely enter the inlet chamber. Therefore, claims 4, 5, 7, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 25 are allowable over Hyppanen.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7-12, 14, 17-21 and 23-26 as being unpatentable over Dietz (US 5,299,532) in view of Hyppanen.

Dietz and Hyppanen, taken individually and in combination, do not teach or suggest a system, as recited in claim 24, having an inlet chamber located inside the furnace adjacent to at least one wall of the furnace walls for directing the solid material to a process chamber inlet, wherein the inlet chamber extends in a vertical direction and ends in an open inlet which is open in the horizontal direction and located at the top of the inlet chamber inside the furnace, wherein the open inlet allows particles of the solid material to freely enter the inlet chamber. Therefore, claims 5, 7-12, 14, 17-21 and 23-26 are not obvious in view of the combined teachings of Dietz and Hyppanen.

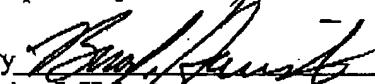
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20386-00295-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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